



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT
FORMER MINSTER CAR HIRE, MICKLEGATE,
YORK**

By Ben Savine

EVALUATION REPORT

Report Number 2018/23 February 2018

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Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|---|
| BGL | Below Ground Level |
| BGS | British Geological Survey |
| CBM | Ceramic Building Material |
| OSA | On-Site Archaeology |
| RCHME | Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England |
| WSI | Written Scheme of Investigation |
| YAT | York Archaeological Trust |

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

On the 1st February 2018 York Archaeological Trust (YAT) conducted a borehole survey at Minster Car Hire, 111 Micklegate, York YO1 6LB (SE 5979 5150).

The work was undertaken for TW Fields to help inform a possible future planning application. The work was based on a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by YAT. The works involved the drilling and recording of five boreholes inside the Minster Car Hire garage.

Natural sands were identified at a depth of approximately 3.5m below ground level (BGL). Above the natural was a sequence of deposits, features and structures likely dating to the Roman period and later. Early deposition and features include possible Roman occupation, dumping and/or levelling deposits. The Roman layers were overlain by garden or horticultural soils which probably accumulated during the medieval and post-medieval periods. Towards the top of the sequence were some substantial post-medieval brick-built structures, including a well. Associated deposits were most likely related to the subsequent demolition and clearance of the post-medieval structures before the construction of the existing garage building in the early 20th century.

KEY PROJECT INFORMATION

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Project Name | 111 Micklegate, York, YO1 6LB |
| YAT Project No. | 6031 |
| Document Number | 2018/23 |
| Type of Project | Borehole Survey |
| Client | TW Fields |
| Planning Application No. | n/a |
| NGR | SE 5979 5150 |
| Museum Accession No. | Tbc |
| OASIS Identifier | Yorkarch1-309270 |

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1 INTRODUCTION

On the 1st February 2018 York Archaeological Trust conducted a borehole survey at Minster Car Hire, 111 Micklegate, York YO1 6LB (SE 5979 5150) (Figure 1). The work was undertaken for TW Fields to inform a potential planning application.

In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (YAT Document Number 2018/14) five boreholes were drilled. Drilling ceased as soon as natural geological deposits were encountered, obstruction would not allow the rig to penetrate further, and in one instance, without encountering natural because drilling was curtailed once the core had reached a depth of 10m BGL. It is thought the rig had penetrated a deep feature such as a well and therefore the results were anomalous.

2 METHODOLOGY

The methodology followed the WSI (YAT Document Number 2018/14; Appendix 3). In total five boreholes were drilled in two transects within the L-shaped layout of the garage building (Figure 3). Two boreholes were arranged across each of the two transects with a fifth at the apex of each transect. Each transect comprised three boreholes, the third of which, located at the apex of the two transects has been included in both (Figure 3). Transect A ran north-east / south-west and included boreholes BH1, BH2 and BH3. Transect B ran north-west / south-east and included boreholes, BH3, BH4 and BH5.

The drilling was carried out by GA Site Investigation Ltd. using a Competitor Dart Window Sample rig. Cores were produced for inspection in 1m sections. These were hand cleaned on site, recorded following YAT single context recording system as detailed in the YAT Fieldwork Manual (YAT 2009) on pro-forma borehole log sheets, and photographed using a digital camera at a resolution not less than 10 megapixels. The boreholes were then backfilled with the core material and gravel, then capped with cement.

Borehole locations were established by triangulating measurements from the internal corners of the garage building and later plotted on to a 1:1250 OS map.

Finds were retrieved and bagged by individual context number.

3 LOCATION, GEOLOGY & TOPOGRAPHY

The proposal site is located at the former Minster Car Hire garage (Figure 2), 111 Micklegate, York (SE 5979 5150) and comprises a single story L-shaped garage building that runs back from the south-east side of the Micklegate street frontage on a north-west / south-east alignment before turning 90° to the north-east. The ground rises evenly and very gently to the south-east. The Ordnance Datum height in the road close to the front of the building is 19.8m OD.

The site is located in an area of mixed commercial and residential properties and lies at the south-western end of Micklegate a little way inside the city walls and close to Micklegate Bar. The site is bordered by The Jinnah Restaurant 105–107 Micklegate, and York Baptist Church on Priors Street to the north, to the south-west by The Micklegate pub at 127, and to the east by Dewsbury Court, a small residential development.

The geology of the site comprises underlying bedrock of Sherwood Sandstone Group - Sandstone, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 237 to 272 million years ago in the Triassic and Permian Periods when the local environment was dominated by rivers. Above this are superficial deposits of glacial moraine, consisting of clay, sand and gravel which were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions (www.bgs.ac.uk - accessed 31/01/18).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Roman period

The site is within the Roman civil settlement or *colonia* located on the south side of the river Ouse. The site therefore lies within an important area of settlement from the late 1st century AD onwards, following the founding of the legionary fortress on the opposite side of the Ouse. Growth of the civilian settlement was particularly rapid in the late 2nd century, represented by the construction of new buildings and streets. To the south-west of the Ouse these included a substantial bath-house at 1–9 Micklegate, a high-status building possibly another bath house at Station Road and temples to Mithras and Serapis (Ottaway 2011). The main Roman road from Calcaria/Tadcaster to the Legionary fortress also runs through the *colonia* in the Micklegate area (Loffman, 2016). Notably there are indications of a parallel street a short distance to the north-east of Road 10. A section of this road, found in 1910 just inside Micklegate Bar, appears likely to correspond with that found under the front of terrace houses at 78–82 Micklegate close to its junction with Barker Lane (RCHME 1 1962).

In the early 3rd century York was given the honorific status of *colonia*. This term has been used to describe the settlement on the south-west side of the Ouse. However there is no reason to suppose that the settled areas on the north-east of the Ouse did not also enjoy the designation as a *colonia*. In the 3rd and 4th centuries the civilian settlement appears to have undergone a period of prosperity, with the expansion of town houses, some with mosaic floors. A gradual decline in population and the deterioration of standing buildings and streets appears to have occurred from the mid- 4th century (Ottaway 2011). Indications of occupation and decline in the Roman period were found during an archaeological excavation at the neighbouring Kenning's Garage site, now Dewsbury Court, by On-Site Archaeology (OSA) in 2000. Evaluation Trench 2, excavated to a depth of 3.56m BGL, exposed natural sands at the base of the trench in to which a large Roman masonry wall had been constructed. The wall was associated with a series of construction and occupation deposits dating to the late 2nd - early 3rd centuries. This wall was later robbed, probably during the 4th century. A number of cut features containing 4th century pottery were observed to cut through the fills of the robbing trench (Tyler 2000).

4.2 Medieval period

The modern street of Micklegate was one of the major thoroughfares into York in the medieval and Anglo-Scandinavian periods. The layout of the present street originates in the 13th–14th century at the latest, and is very likely to have been established before this (RCHME 3 1972). The Micklegate road was of particular significance as it leads to the Ouse Bridge, the only bridge over the Ouse in the medieval period (Loffman 2016).

At the time of the construction of the Norman defences around this part of York, much of the land remained unoccupied. The earliest mention of the name *Myglagata* was in 1161–84, and the street soon became an important area. The street contained a Benedictine Priory, three parish churches and merchant houses. Three medieval inns are also known along Micklegate. A deep drainage ditch, called “King’s ditches” ran along each side of the road (Raine 1955, 226–7).

Throughout much of the medieval period the site would have fallen within the precinct of Holy Trinity Priory which occupied an area to the south-east of Micklegate, with Micklegate road forming the boundary of the grounds. The gateway to the priory was situated 100 yards along Micklegate from Micklegate Bar. A watching brief on gas service trenches along the north-western end of Priory Street carried out by YAT in 2001 revealed what is thought to have been the now robbed out priory wall (Macnab 2002). The Priory dates to the 11th century and continued in use until the Dissolution (Loffman 2016). The site and buildings were granted to Leonard Beckwith in c.1543. Cartographic evidence indicates that the area was given over to gardens and orchards, indeed when the Priory was purchased in the 17th century by Sir John Goodrick of Ribston, it was known as Trinity Gardens (Tillott 1961, 360).

4.3 Post-medieval period

In the post-medieval period the Micklegate frontage remained relatively unchanged up until the 19th century (RCHME 3 1972). From the 13th to the 19th century the area was characterised by the houses of the nobility, merchant properties, and artisan shops. By 1800 the number of professional and shop properties had increased. The coming of the railway in 1839 further changed the character of the area (Loffman 2016).

The OSA evaluation at Kenning’s Garage encountered garden soils, brick build structures and layers of brick rubble (Tyler 2000). In late 2001 and early 2002 YAT undertook a watching brief on two boreholes and two engineering pits at the same Kenning’s Garage development site. The findings were comparable to those of the OSA evaluation, exposing considerable overburden of relatively modern materials, principally relict garden soils (Johnson 2002).

Map evidence show that Micklegate in the area of the site was occupied by a series of buildings fronting on to the street. Photographic evidence from the mid 19th century onwards suggests these buildings were, at least at ground floor, commercial properties.

4.4 Modern

By the mid- 20th century the current garage building, then occupied by The Micklegate Motor Company, is shown by mapping to have replaced the earlier properties fronting onto the street.

5 RESULTS

Five boreholes were drilled across two transects. The results of this survey are a not entirely comprehensive as natural was only encountered in two of the boreholes. Two of the boreholes were curtailed by the presence of solid obstacles, likely in situ walls, at a depth of

approximately 2m BGL. In the case of BH2 it is thought that the borehole was drilled directly down into a well, here coring ceased at a depth of 10m BGL and natural was not detected.

In addition the boreholes were not sleeved; consequently material regularly slumped into the base of the borehole following the retrieval of 1m core sections (see Figure 4). The presence of slumped material compressed deposits within some 1m core sections. These issues were found to be particularly prevalent where deposits were softer and boreholes deeper.

5.1 Phase 1 – Natural (Figures 4–7, Plates 3 and 5)

Natural sands C3007 and C5011 were encountered in BH3 and BH5 (Transect A), at a depth of 3.43m and 3.42m BGL respectively. In both cases natural consisted of clean orange sand.

5.2 Phase 2 – Possible Roman activity (Figures 4–7, Plates 3 and 5)

The earliest archaeological deposits were found in Boreholes BH3 and BH5 (Transect A).

Weathered or exposed natural consisting of moderately compact light grey sand, C5010, was present close to the bottom of BH5 on top of natural. C5010 graded through to C5009, a firm mid orange brown sandy clay with inclusions of charcoal and small pebbles, which at 0.25m thick appeared to be dumping or levelling consisting of re-worked natural.

The remaining Phase 2 deposits in BH5, C5005–C5008, appeared to be a sequence of build-up deposits, possibly representing occupation. They were generally firm mid reddish brown clayey sands consisting of multiple, typically thin, laminations with charcoal flecks and small pebbles present throughout. They extended from a depth of 2.75m up to 1.84m BGL.

The earliest deposits in BH3 had a very similar appearance to those in BH5. Possible occupation was represented by C3006, a seemingly gradual accumulation of laminated moderately compact light yellowish brown, light orangey brown and mid brown sands and clayey sands. This was present between 3.43m and 2.7m BGL and may be broadly equivalent to C5005, C5006 and C5008. Above C3006, a 0.18m thick compacted gravel layer, C3005, may be a surface or part of a disturbed structure over which a deposit of loose light brown sand, C3004, was present from 2.52 to 2.4m BGL. A single rim sherd of Ebor type Roman pottery was recovered from C3004.

5.3 Phase 3 – medieval and/or post-medieval activity (Figures 4–7, Plates 3 and 5)

BH5 contained two deposits which could be the fills of a cess pit. The lower of the two, C5004, is a firm mid reddish brown clayey sand characteristic of a primary cess rich deposit; it included a dark organic lens towards its base. Above was C5003, mid greyish brown clayey silt containing frequent inclusions of CBM, oyster shell, charcoal and pebbles. C5003 appears to have rapidly accumulated and likely represents abandonment or capping off of the cess deposit with soil and domestic refuse. Although no definitively dateable material was recovered these deposits are typical of their type found throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods.

BH3 thick homogenous deposits of what appears to be garden or horticultural soils. C3003 was firm dark brown silty sand that became increasingly clayey further down. It was 1.1m thick and had a distinct, sharp boundary with C3004 below at 2.4m BGL. The next deposit, C3003, was friable dark to mid brownish grey silty sand extending up to 1.3m BGL.

5.4 Phase 4 – Post-medieval structures (Figures 4–7, Plates 1, 2 and 4)

Intact structures were detected immediately below the existing concrete floor in BH1 and BH4. In both cases solid obstructions prevented coring from extending beyond 2m BGL.

BH1 encountered what might be the top of a wall or brick surface, C1005, at c.1.9m BGL. Overlying which, sequentially, were two deposits, C1004 and C1003. Both are build-up deposits, possibly garden soils. Next an intact brick wall and what could be its rubble footing was encountered. C1001 and C1002 extended from 0.42m BGL to 1.38m BGL.

BH4 also exposed an intact course brick and limestone mortar bonded wall, C4001, and an associated layer of brick, mortar and limestone rubble, C4002, extending from 0.3m BGL.

BH2 appears to have been drilled directly into a well, part of the curved brick-built retaining wall of which was visible in section. Overlying deposits suggest this feature was also post-medieval in date. It was explored to a depth of 10m BGL by which point the base of the feature was not established and it was clear that further drilling would not help to establish the general range of the top of natural. The lower 1.1m was assigned C2004, friable to firm mid greyish brown clayey silt with moderate CBM fragments and occasional pebbles. Above that was C2003, friable to firm dark brown silty sand with moderate CBM fragments and occasional animal bone inclusions. This deposit was approximately 7.5m thick, extending up to 1.46m BGL. The lower of these deposits, although not wet was certainly contained more clay and was denser, perhaps forming from gradual silting. In contrast C2003 appears to have accumulated as a more rapid process of backfilling and abandonment of the feature. The failure to retrieve any material from the core sunk at between 5m and 6m indicates the presence of voids resulting from the backfilling process.

5.5 Phase 5 – Modern (Figures 4–7, Plates 2, 3 and 5)

Evidence of the demolition and clearance of the post-medieval structures was encountered in BH2, BH3 and BH5. Deposits of rubble and rubble rich soil were found to extend from below the existing concrete floor to a depth of 1.46m BGL in BH2, 0.78m BGL in BH3 and 1.39m BGL in BH5.

5.6 Phase 6 – Existing structure (Figures 4–7)

The floor of the existing garage building was present at the top of each borehole. It consisted of a concrete slab ranging in thickness from 150mm to 260mm, below which rubble hard core was found. This extended to a depth of 420mm–430mm BGL across Transect A and 240mm–420mm BGL in Transect B.

6 DISCUSSION

Natural sands were encountered at around 3.4m BGL. This corresponds with the results of the OSA Kenning's Garage evaluation (Trench 2; Tyler 2000), where natural was found at approximately 3.5m BGL, and the YAT borehole survey at the same site where natural was found extending to 3.2m BGL in BH1 (positioned closest to the current survey) and at 4.9m BGL in BH2, positioned further down slope to the south.

A sequence of possible Roman activity in the form of re-worked natural, often present as thin laminations, are suggestive of occupational activity. These were found present across transect B extending up to between 2.4m (BH3) and 1.84m BGL (BH5), and include what may be a pebble surface at approx. 2.5m BGL. Again the position of these deposits fits comfortably with

the known depth of Roman material, for example the top of Roman deposits in OSA evaluation Trench 2 were encountered from approx. 1.5m BGL, while strikingly similar deposits to those seen in BH3 and BH5 were found to occur in YAT BH1 (2002) from a depth of 2.3m BGL. The presence of Roman period pottery recovered from the top of C3004 further support the likelihood of a Roman date for deposition.

It is also worth bearing in mind the depth at which the supposed Roman precursor to Micklegate has been located both just inside Micklegate Bar and at the junction of Micklegate and Barker lane (recorded here at a depth of 9 feet or 2.74m BGL). The conjectured line of this street runs across the site close to the current street frontage, a short distance south-west of BH5.

A distinct shift in the nature and form of deposition was detected in both BH3 and BH5 between the possible Roman deposits and those that accumulated above them. The likelihood is a change in formation processes is reflecting a definitive shift in land use either at the end of the Roman period or when this area fell within the Trinity Priory precinct in the 11th century.

Evidence for medieval activity was not extensive, possibly in part due to later truncation. However, the probable cess pit found at between 1.39m and 1.84m BGL in BH5 contained typical medieval material. The two sherds of Roman grey ware pottery recovered from this feature are likely to be residual. Medieval pottery, dating to the 14th century was also recovered from C3002, although that deposit appears to be of later date.

Similarly, potentially medieval and post-medieval garden and horticultural soils were not as extensive as had been expected. This may also be explained by truncation. In BH3, where evidence was found it occupied a zone between 2.4m and 0.78m BGL.

Later post-medieval activity was present in the form of brick and limestone-built structures as well as rubble and soils perhaps relating to their use, abandonment, demolition and clearance. Deposits of this sort were encountered in all of the boreholes extending up to the base of the current floor level, however definitive structures comprising bonded and coursed brickwork were only found in BH1 and BH4. Map evidence (see Figures 8 and 9) suggests these structures are likely to have been buildings fronting on to Micklegate and ancillary buildings and structures such as the well discovered in BH2 in the gardens to their rear.

The post-medieval buildings were replaced by the existing garage building by the late 1930s (see Figure 10), when The Micklegate Motor Company occupied the site (Plate 6).

LIST OF SOURCES

British Geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk
National Library of Scotland <http://maps.nls.uk/>

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APPENDIX 1 – INDEX TO ARCHIVE

| Item | Number of items |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Borehole record sheets | 5 |
| Digital photographs | 16 |
| Written Scheme of Investigation | 1 |
| Report | 1 |

Table 1 Index to archive

APPENDIX 2 – CONTEXT LIST

| Context Number | Bore hole | Description |
|----------------|-----------|--|
| 1000 | BH1 | Concrete slab (existing floor), 110mm thick. Sand bedding 10mm thick. Rubble hard core 200mm thick. Total depth 420mm. To 0.42m BGL |
| 1001 | BH1 | In situ brick wall, 590mm thick. To 1m BGL. |
| 1002 | BH1 | Brick and mortar rubble. Possible levelling or make up for overlying structure. 370mm thick. To 1.38m BGL |
| 1003 | BH1 | Soil build-up –possible garden soil. Friable dark brown sandy silt. Mortar, pebbles and CBM fragments. 420mm thick. To 1.8m BGL. |
| 1004 | BH1 | Soil build-up –possible garden soil. Soft black silt. 100mm thick. To 1.9m BGL. |
| 1005 | BH1 | Brick and concrete – floor/wall? Thickness unknown. Refusal at 2m BGL. |
| 2000 | BH2 | Concrete slab (existing floor), 210mm thick. Rubble hard core 220mm thick. Total depth 430mm. To 0.43m BGL |
| 2001 | BH2 | Soil build-up –possible garden soil. Loose dark grey/brown sandy silt. Frequent mortar and small CBM fragments. 310mm thick. To 0.74m BGL. |
| 2002 | BH2 | Demolition or levelling. Large CBM fragments, mortar and ceramic drain pipe in a matrix of dark brown silt. 720mm thick. To 1.46m BGL. |
| 2003 | BH2 | Dump – possible well backfill. Friable to firm dark brown silty sand, moderate CBM and mortar fragments, occasional animal bone. 7.46m thick. To 8.92m BGL |
| 2004 | BH2 | Dump/ build-up - well backfill. Friable to firm dark brown clayey silt, moderate CBM fragments and occasional pebbles. 1080mm thick. To 10m BGL. |
| 3000 | BH3 | Concrete slab (existing floor), 150mm thick. Rubble hard core 270mm thick. Total depth 420mm. To 0.42m BGL |
| 3001 | BH3 | Make-up/ levelling. Friable mid brown/grey sandy silt. Moderate mortar and limestone, occasional CBM. Defuse interface with c3002. 360mm thick. To 0.78m BGL. |
| 3002 | BH3 | Build-up –garden/horticultural soil. Friable dark to mid brown/grey silty sand, becoming increasingly clayey further down. Frequent pebbles, limestone fragments at base. Clear boundary with c3003. 520mm thick. To 1.3m BGL. |
| 3003 | BH3 | Build-up –garden/horticultural soil. Firm dark brown silty sand – increasingly clayey towards base. Frequent pebbles, occasional animal bone. Sharp boundary with c3004. 1100mm thick. To 2.4m BGL. |
| 3004 | BH3 | Make-up/ Levelling. Loose light brown sand. Defuse interface with c3005. 120mm thick. To 2.52m BGL. |
| 3005 | BH3 | Possible surface? Moderately compact light brown gravel in a silty sand matrix. Sharp boundary with c3006. 180mm thick. To 2.7m BGL. |
| 3006 | BH3 | Build-up. Bands of moderately compact light orange/brown and mid brown coarse sand and clayey sand – some fine light yellow/brown fine sandy lenses. Moderate small pebbles. 740mm thick. TO 3.43m BGL. |
| 3007 | BH3 | Natural. Compact orange/brown sand. To 4m BGL. |
| 4000 | BH4 | Concrete slab (existing floor), 150mm thick. Rubble hard core 150mm thick. Total depth 300mm. To 0.3m BGL |
| 4001 | BH4 | Wall. Mortar bonded coursed limestone and brick. 400mm thick. To 0.7m BGL. |
| 4002 | BH4 | Wall footing/ rubble levelling. Loose CBM and mortar with some limestone fragments. 1300mm thick. To 2m BGL. |
| 5000 | BH5 | Concrete slab (existing floor), 140mm thick. Rubble hard core 100mm thick. Total depth 240mm. To 0.24m BGL |
| 5001 | BH5 | Make-up/levelling. Firm dark brown sandy silt. Frequent CBM and mortar fragments at top. Moderately defuse interface with c5002. 260mm thick. To 0.5m BGL. |

| Context Number | Bore hole | Description |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| 5002 | BH5 | Make-up/ levelling. Friable to firm mid brown/grey sandy silt. Frequent mortar, moderate limestone, occasional CBM. Sharp boundary with c5003. 890mm thick. To 1.39m BGL. |
| 5003 | BH5 | Build-up –possible pit backfill. Firm Mid grey/brown clayey silt. Pebbles, oyster shall and mortar, lenses of charcoal at 1.64m BGL. Sharp interface with c5004 30mm thick. To 1.69m BGL. |
| 5004 | BH5 | Build-up- possible pit backfill. Firm mid red/brown sandy clay. Occasional small stones. Quite cassy. Organic lens at 1.81m BGL. Sharp interface with c5005. 150mm thick. To 1.84m BGL. |
| 5005 | BH5 | Build-up – occupation?. Firm mid red/brown clayey sand with occasional sandy lenses. Defuse interface with c5006. 560mm thick. To 2.4m BGL. |
| 5006 | BH5 | Build-up – occupation? Lenses firm of mid re/brown and dark grey brown sand and clayey sand. Moderate charcoal flecks. Sharp boundary with c5007. 200mm thick. To 2.6m BGL. |
| 5007 | BH5 | Build-up. Clean, soft light orange/brown sand. Sharp boundary with c5008. 60mm thick. To 2.66m BGL. |
| 5008 | BH5 | Build-up – occupation? Lenses firm of mid re/brown and dark grey brown sand and clayey sand. Moderate charcoal flecks. Defuse boundary with c5009. 90mm thick. To 2.75m BGL. |
| 5009 | BH5 | Dumping/ levelling – reworked natural? Firm mid orange brown sandy clay. Occasional charcoal and pebbles. 250mm thick. To 3m BGL. |
| 5010 | BH5 | Weathered natural. Moderately compact light grey sand and gravel. 90mm thick. From 3.33m to 3.42m BGL |
| 5011 | BH5 | Natural. Loose orange sand. |

Table 2 Context list

APPENDIX 3 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION



WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL BOREHOLE SURVEY

Site Location: Former Minster Car Hire, Micklegate
NGR: SE 5979 5150
Proposal: N/A
Planning ref: N/A
Prepared for: TW Fields by York Archaeological Trust, [30/01/18]
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| Version | Produced by | | Edited by | | Approved by | |
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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to a proposal by the client and will be monitored by the Principal Archaeologist at City of York Council, John Oxley. The work will be carried out in accordance with this WSI, and according to the principles of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.

2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The proposal site is at the former Minster Car Hire garage (See Figure 1), 111 Micklegate, York (SE 5979 5150). The site is situated on the south-east side of Micklegate close to Micklegate Bar, approximately 1.1Km south-west of York Minster, close to a high point of the York glacial moraine at a height of approximately 19.8m AOD.
- 2.2 The underlying solid geology is of Sherwood sandstones of the late Permian date, overlain by superficial deposits of the York Moraine Member, namely clays, sands and gravels (www.bgs.ac.uk - accessed 30/01/18).
- 2.3 The site is currently in use as a vehicle rental premises and garage, situated within a built-up location within the City Walls. The adjoining properties on Micklegate are The Jinnah

Restaurant, at 105-107 Micklegate, and The Micklegate at 127 Public House at 127 Micklegate. To the rear lies a small housing development and York Baptist Church, both accessed via Priory Street.

3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

- 3.1 The site lies within the Micklegate Conservation Area, area 21 of the York Central Historic Core Conservation Area and within York's Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

4.1 Historical Background

Roman period

The site is within the Roman civil settlement or *colonia* located on the south side of the river Ouse. The site therefore lies within an important area of settlement from the late 1st century AD onwards, following the founding of the legionary fortress on the opposite side of the Ouse. Growth of the civilian settlement was particularly rapid in the late 2nd century, represented by the construction of new buildings and streets. To the south-west of the Ouse these included a substantial bath-house at 1-9 Micklegate, a high-status building possibly another bath house at Station Road and temples to Mithras and Serapis (Ottaway 2011). The main Roman road from Calcaria/Tadcaster to the Legionary fortress also runs through the *colonia* in the Micklegate area (Loffman, 2016). Notably there are indications of a parallel street a short distance to the north-east of Road 10. A section of this road, found in 1910 just inside Micklegate Bar, appears likely to correspond with that found under the front of terrace houses at 78-82 Micklegate close to its junction with Barker Lane (RCHME, 1962).

In the early 3rd century York was given the honorific status of *colonia*. This term has been used to describe the settlement on the south-west side of the Ouse. However there is no reason to suppose that the settled areas on the north-east of the Ouse did not also enjoy the designation as a *colonia*. In the 3rd and 4th centuries the civilian settlement appears to have undergone a period of prosperity, with the expansion of town houses, some with mosaic floors. A gradual decline in population and the deterioration of standing buildings and streets appears to have occurred from the mid 4th century (Ottaway 2011).

Medieval period

The modern street of Micklegate was one of the major thoroughfares into York in the medieval and Anglo-Scandinavian periods. The layout of the present street originates in the 13th-14th century at the latest, and is very likely to have been established before this (RCHMY 3 1972). The Micklegate road was of particular significance as it leads to the Ouse Bridge, the only bridge over the Ouse in the medieval period (Loffman, 2016).

At the time of the construction of the Norman defences around this part of York, much of the land remained unoccupied. The earliest mention of the name *Myglagata* was in 1161-84, and the street soon became an important area. The street contained a Benedictine Priory, three parish churches and merchant houses. Three medieval inns are also known along Micklegate. A deep drainage ditch, called "King's ditches" ran along each side of the road (Raine 1955:226-7).

Throughout much of the medieval period the site would have fallen within the precinct of The Holy Trinity Priory which occupied an area to the south-east of Micklegate, with Micklegate road forming the boundary of the grounds. The gateway to the priory was located 100 yards along Micklegate from Micklegate Bar. The Priory dates to the 11th century and continued in use until the Dissolution (Loffman, 2016). The site and the buildings were then granted to Leonard Beckwith in c.1543. Cartographic evidence indicates that the area was given over to gardens and orchards, indeed when the Priory was purchased in the 17th century by Sir John Goodrick of Ribston, it was known as Trinity Gardens (Tillott 1961:360).

Post medieval period

In the post-medieval period the Micklegate frontage remained relatively unchanged up until the 19th century (RCHMY 3 1972). From the 13th to the 19th century the area is characterised by the houses of the nobility, merchant properties, and artisan shops. By 1800 the number of professional and shop properties had increased. The coming of the railway in 1839 further changed the character of the area (Loffman, 2016).

4.2 Summary of archaeological investigations

Numerous archaeological interventions are recorded along Micklegate and in the immediate area of the site. Of these perhaps the most pertinent to the proposed development is the Kenning's Garage site. Here On-Site Archaeology excavated three evaluation trenches (O.S.A. 2000). Trench 1 of this evaluation was excavated to a depth of 1.40m BGL at which point two animal burials were seen to be cutting through a garden soil. These were sealed by further garden soils and a 19th century brick outbuilding and surface. Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 3.56m BGL. Natural sands were encountered towards the base of the trench. A large Roman wall was one of the earliest deposits in the trench and this was associated with a series of construction and occupation deposits dating to the late 2nd - early 3rd Centuries. This wall was later robbed, probably during the 4th Century. A number of cut features containing 4th Century pottery cut through the fills of the robbing trench. Later features and deposits in the trench relate to 18th century formal gardens and garden soils. Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of 1.79m BGL and revealed two shallow cut features towards the base of the trench overlain by a series of garden soils and brick rubble layers (Johnson, 2002).

In late 2001 and early 2002 YAT undertook a watching brief on two boreholes and two engineering pits at the same Kenning's Garage development site (Johnson, 2002). The findings were in line with that of the On-Site Archaeology evaluation, exposing considerable overburden of relatively modern materials, principally relict garden soils.

A watching brief on gas service trenches along the north-western end of Priory Street carried out by YAT in 2001 revealed the probable position of the now robbed out priory wall. In addition soils though likely to relate to back yard activities were exposed to depths of approximately 1m BGL.

5. GROUNDWORKS TO BE MONITORED

- 5.1 Up to 5 boreholes will be drilled down to the top of natural geological deposits, expected to be encountered at a depth of around 4-5m below ground level (BGL). The bore holing will be preceded by a CAT and Jenny scan to identify the location of buried services. These works will be carried out inside the Minster Hire garage building, an L-shaped structure that runs back from the Micklegate street frontage before turning at 90° to the north-east. It is intended that two bore holes will be located on each axis with a fifth at the apex (See Figure 2).

6 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 Five window sample boreholes will be completed for the purposes of archaeological deposit modelling. These will be arranged in two transects at appropriate intervals within the garage building. This structure is L shaped, as such it is intended that two boreholes will be positioned on a north-west/ south-east axis running back from the street frontage, a further two will be situated at 90° on a north-east/ south-west alignment with a fifth borehole be positioned at the apex of the two alignments (Figure 2)
- 6.2 Window sample boreholes will be cored using under constant archaeological observation. Cores shall be recovered in plastic sleeves for logging on-site.
- 6.3 The archaeological log shall record the stratigraphy of each core, noting the description, condition, extent and depth of each context on pro-forma record sheets, these will be supplemented with digital photographs of each core. Digital photographs will be taken at a resolution of no less than 10 mega pixels.
- 6.4 Deposits may be sampled where there is potential for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains. The processing of such samples may be required to inform subsequent evaluation and sampling strategies for the site.

7 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

- 7.1 Upon completion of the groundworks, a report will be prepared to include the following:
- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
 - b) An introduction which will include the grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
 - c) An account of the methodology and results of the operation, describing structural data, associated finds and environmental data.
 - d) A selection of photographs and drawings, including an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored.
 - e) Specialist artefact and environmental reports as necessary.
 - f) Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
 - g) A copy of the key OASIS form details
 - h) Copies of the Brief and WSI
 - i) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report
- 7.2 Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body and the HER/SMR (also in PDF format).
- 7.3 The requirements for archive preparation and deposition will be addressed and undertaken in a manner agreed with the recipient museum. In this instance the Yorkshire Museum is recommended and an agreed allowance should be made for the curation and storage of this material.
- 7.4 Provision for the publication of results, as outlined in the Brief, will be made.

- 7.5 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the County Council and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 8.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 8.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

9 TIMETABLE & STAFFING

- 9.1 Works are intended to be undertaken on 01/02/18.
- 9.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:
- Human Remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd)
 - Palaeoenvironmental remains – John Carrot (PRS)
 - Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
 - Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers
 - Medieval Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner
 - Finds Officers – Nienke Van Doorne
 - Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues – Dr Rod Mackenzie & Dr Roger Doonan
 - Conservation – Ian Panter

10 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

- 10.1 As a minimum requirement, the Principal Archaeologist at City of York Council, John Oxley, will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed. York Archaeological Trust will notify the Principal Archaeologist at City of York Council of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary.

11 COPYRIGHT

- 11.1 York Archaeological Trust retain the copyright on this document. It has been prepared expressly for the named client, and may not be passed to third parties for use or for the purpose of gathering quotations.

12 KEY REFERENCES

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For the latest Historic England guidance documents see:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/latest-guidance/>

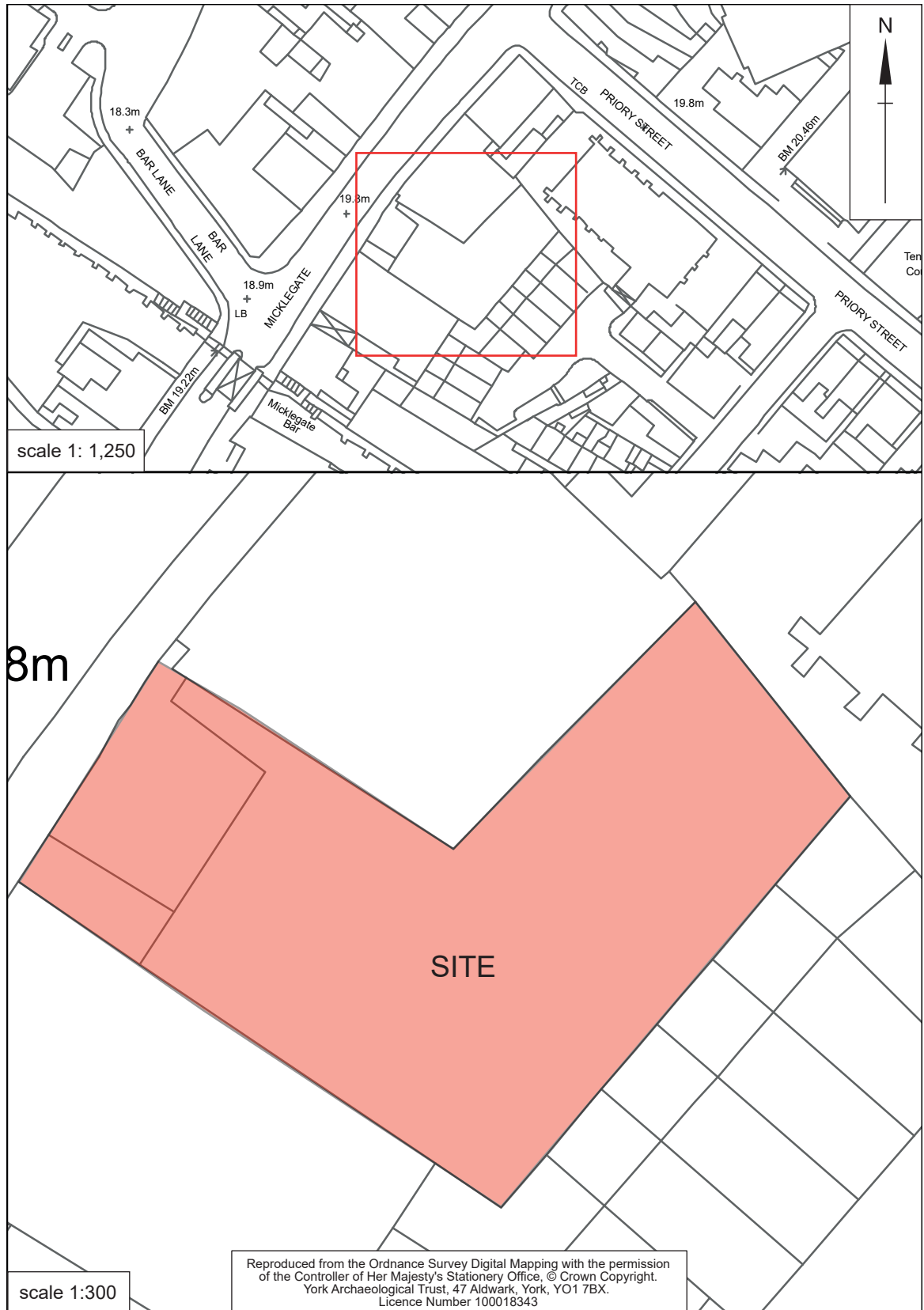
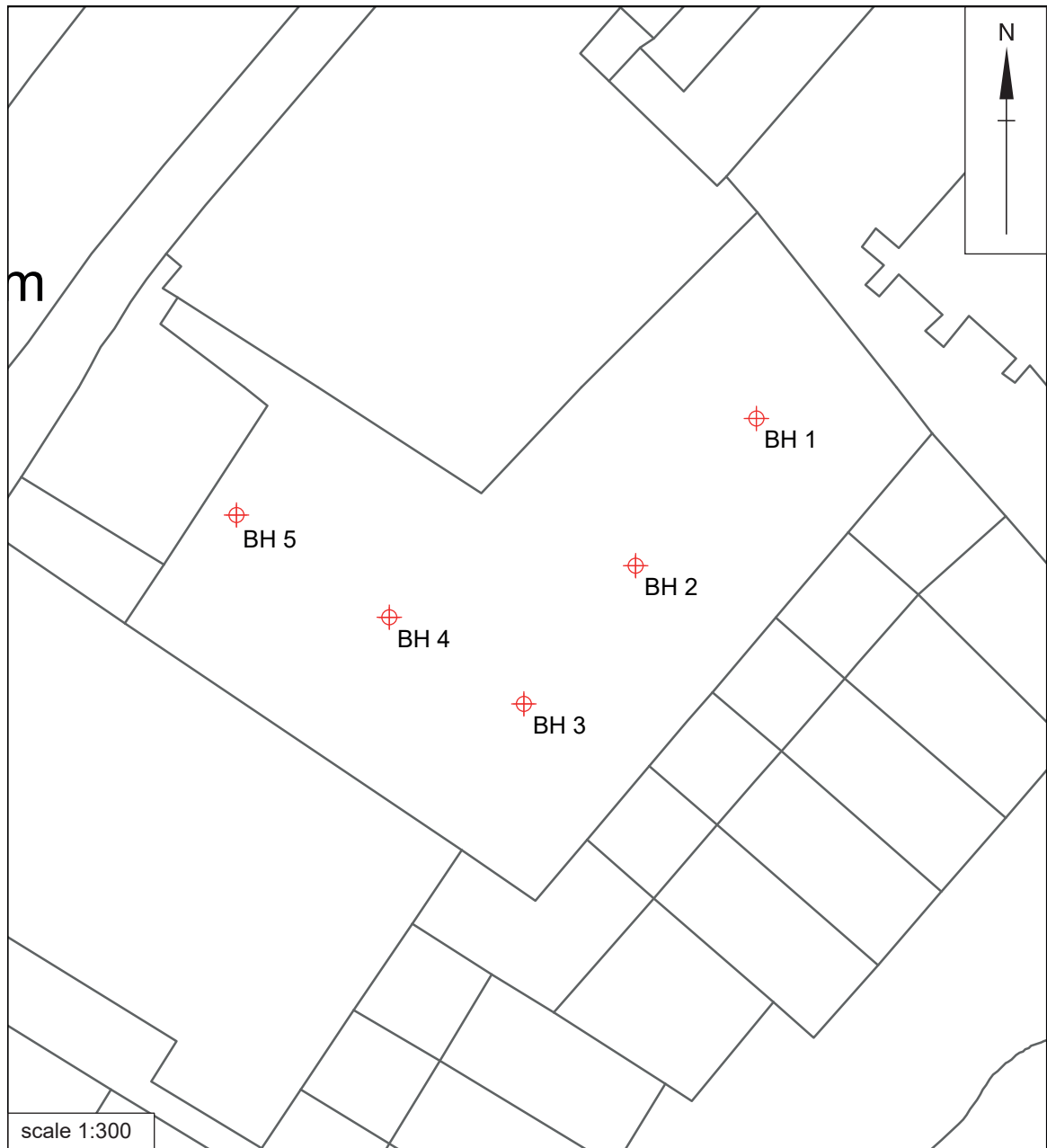


Fig. 1 Site location



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Fig. 2 Borehole locations

PLATES



Plate 1 BH1, top of profile is at bottom left of image, scale 0.1m intervals



Plate 2 BH2, top of profile is at bottom left of image, 0.1m scale intervals



Plate 3 BH3, top of profile is at bottom left of image, 0.1m scale intervals



Plate 4 BH4, top of profile is at bottom left of image, 0.1m scale intervals



Plate 5 BH5, top of profile is at bottom left of image, 0.1m scale intervals



Plate 6 The Micklegate Motor Company premises. The building to the left, with the wall mounted clock, is now the front of Minster Car Hire.

FIGURES



Fig. 1 Site location

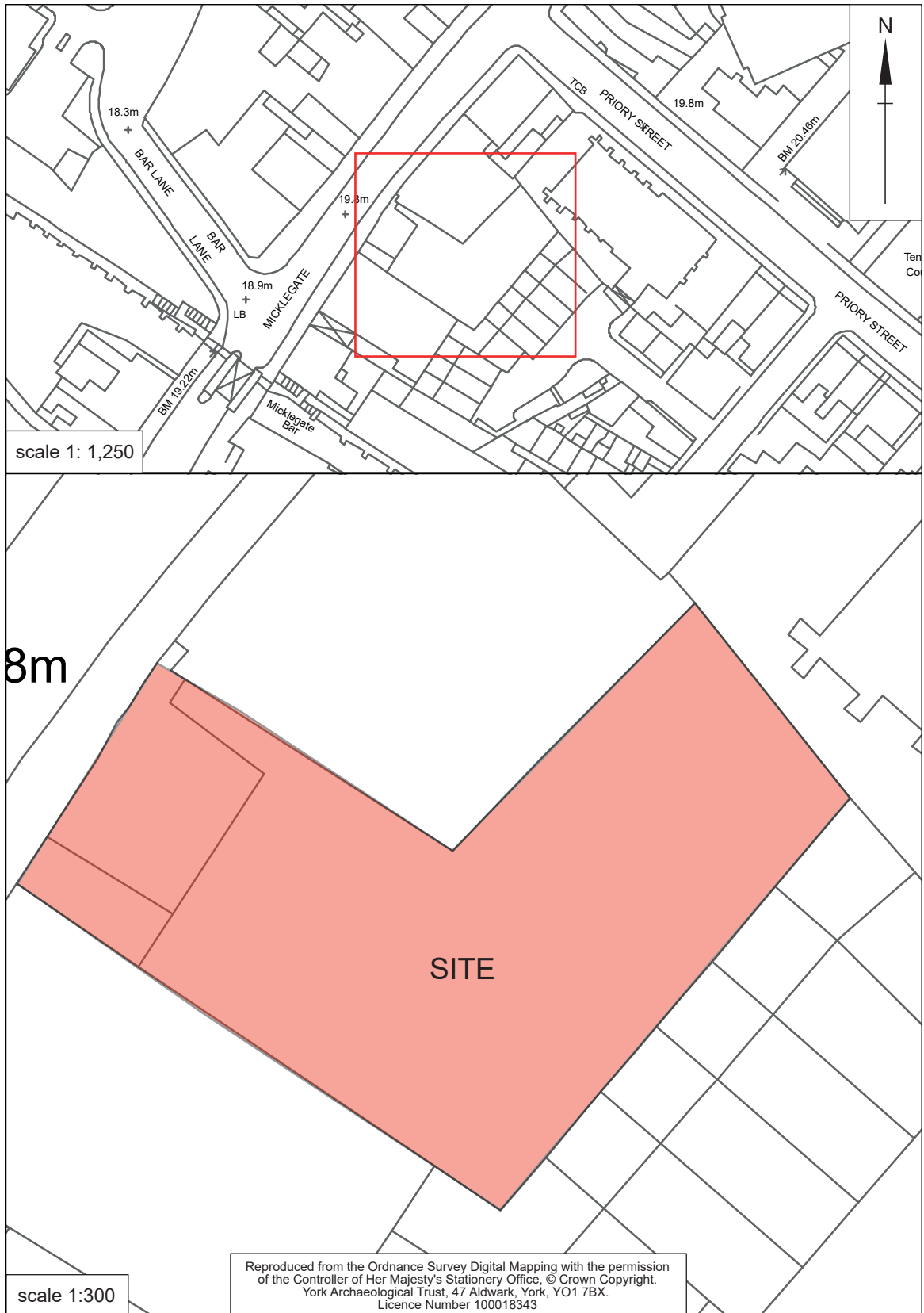
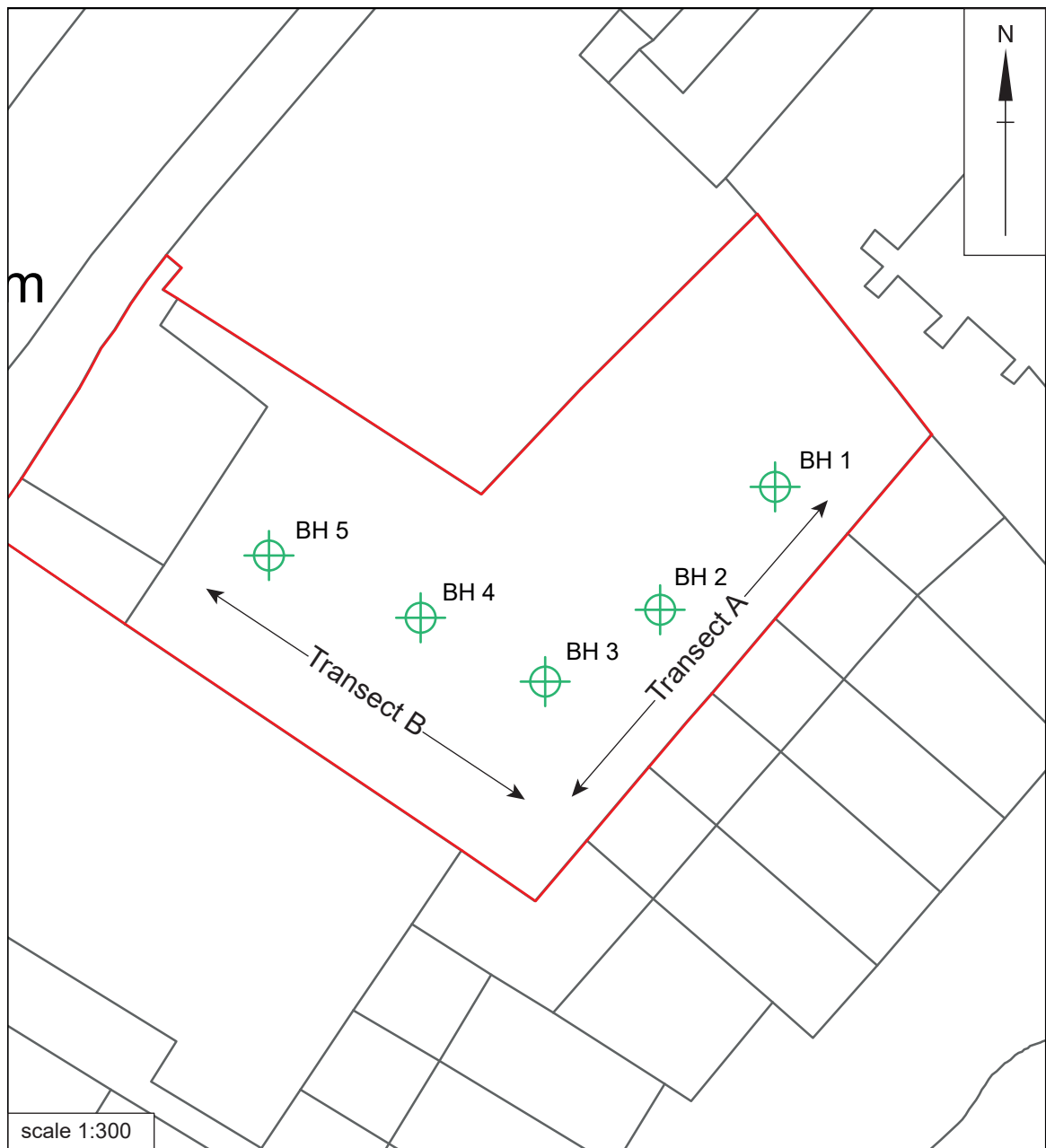


Fig. 1 Site location



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Fig. 3 Borehole locations

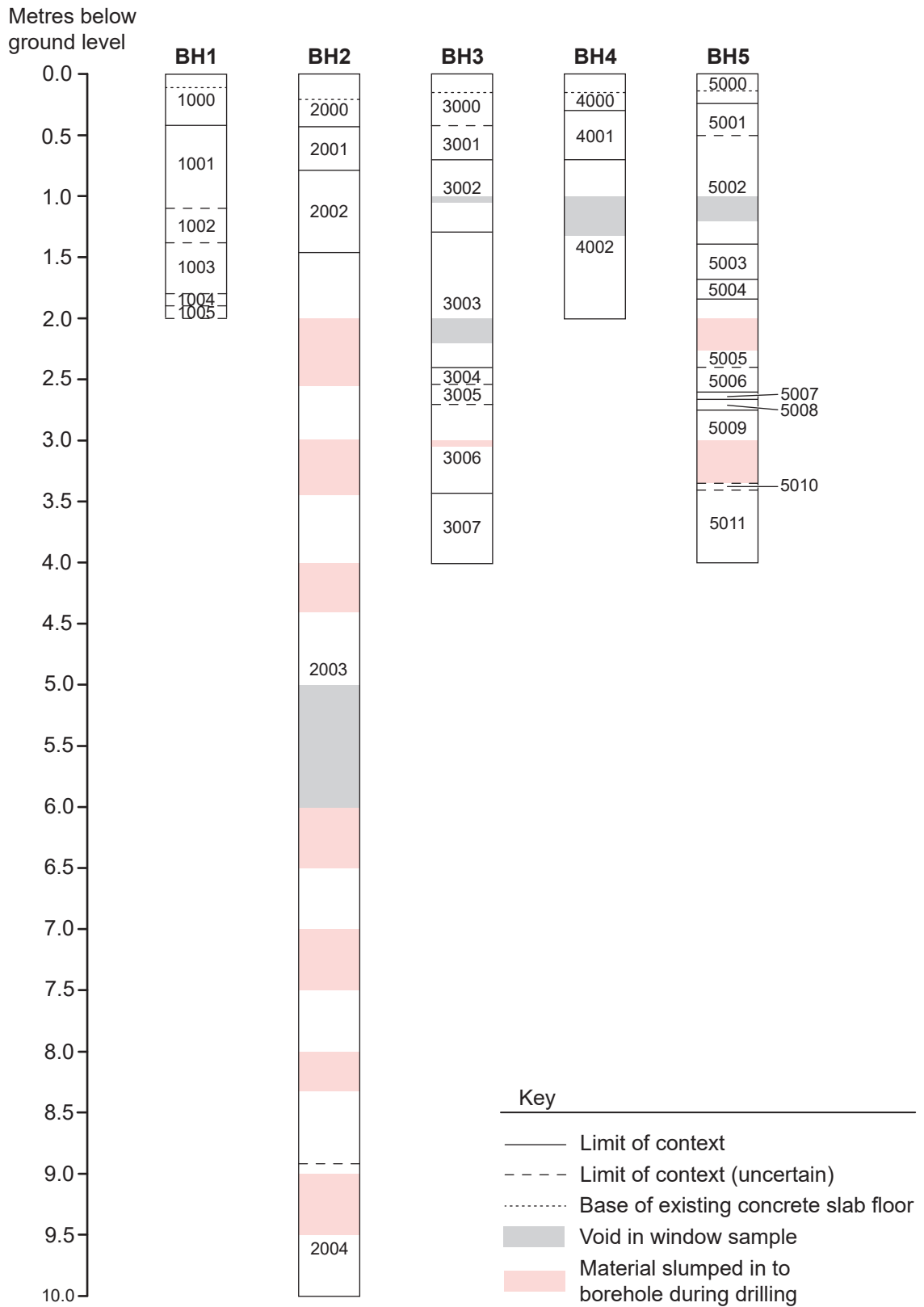


Fig. 4 Borehole Profiles

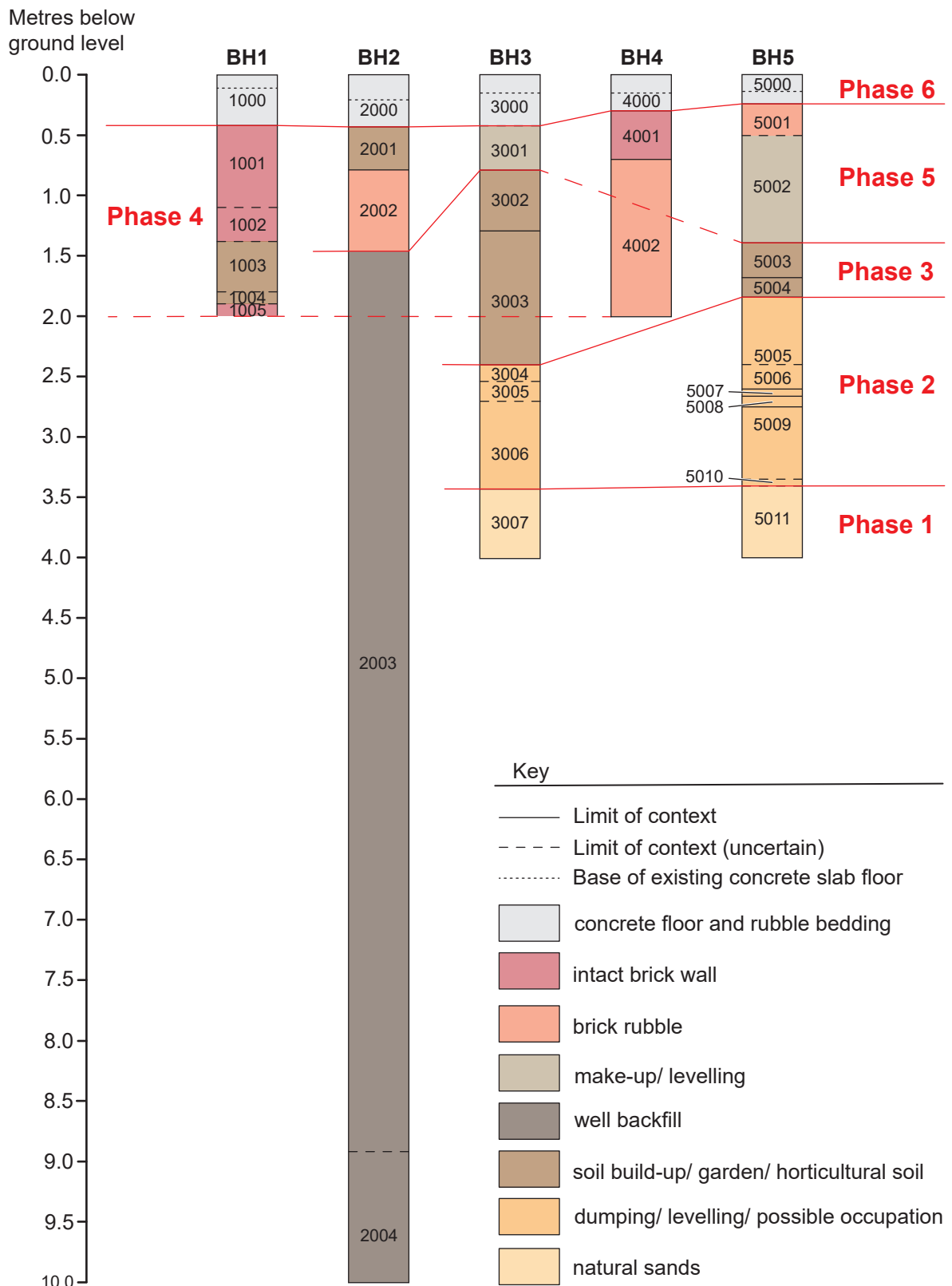


Fig. 5 Borehole profiles with deposit phasing

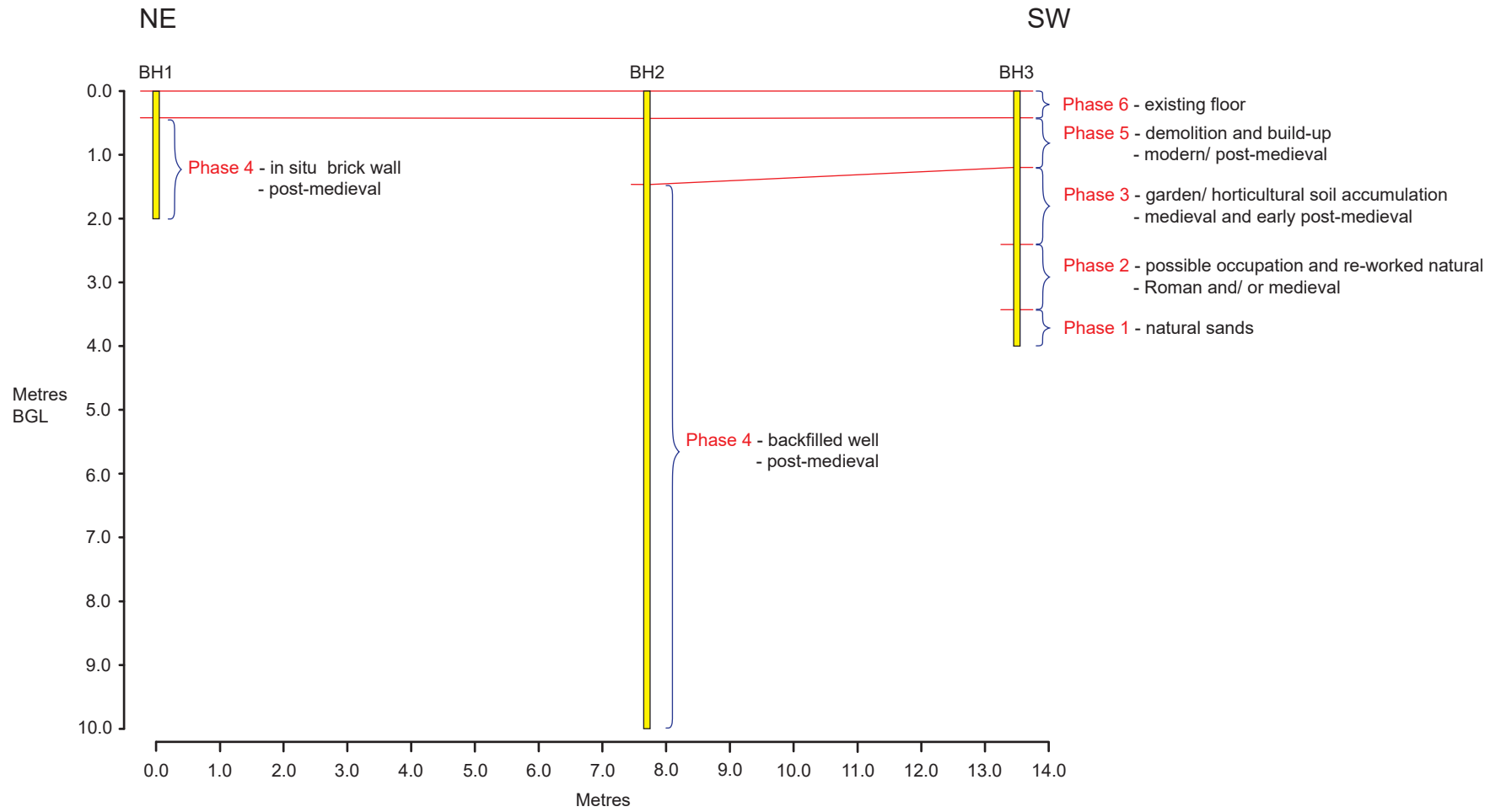


Fig. 6 Deposit model, transect A

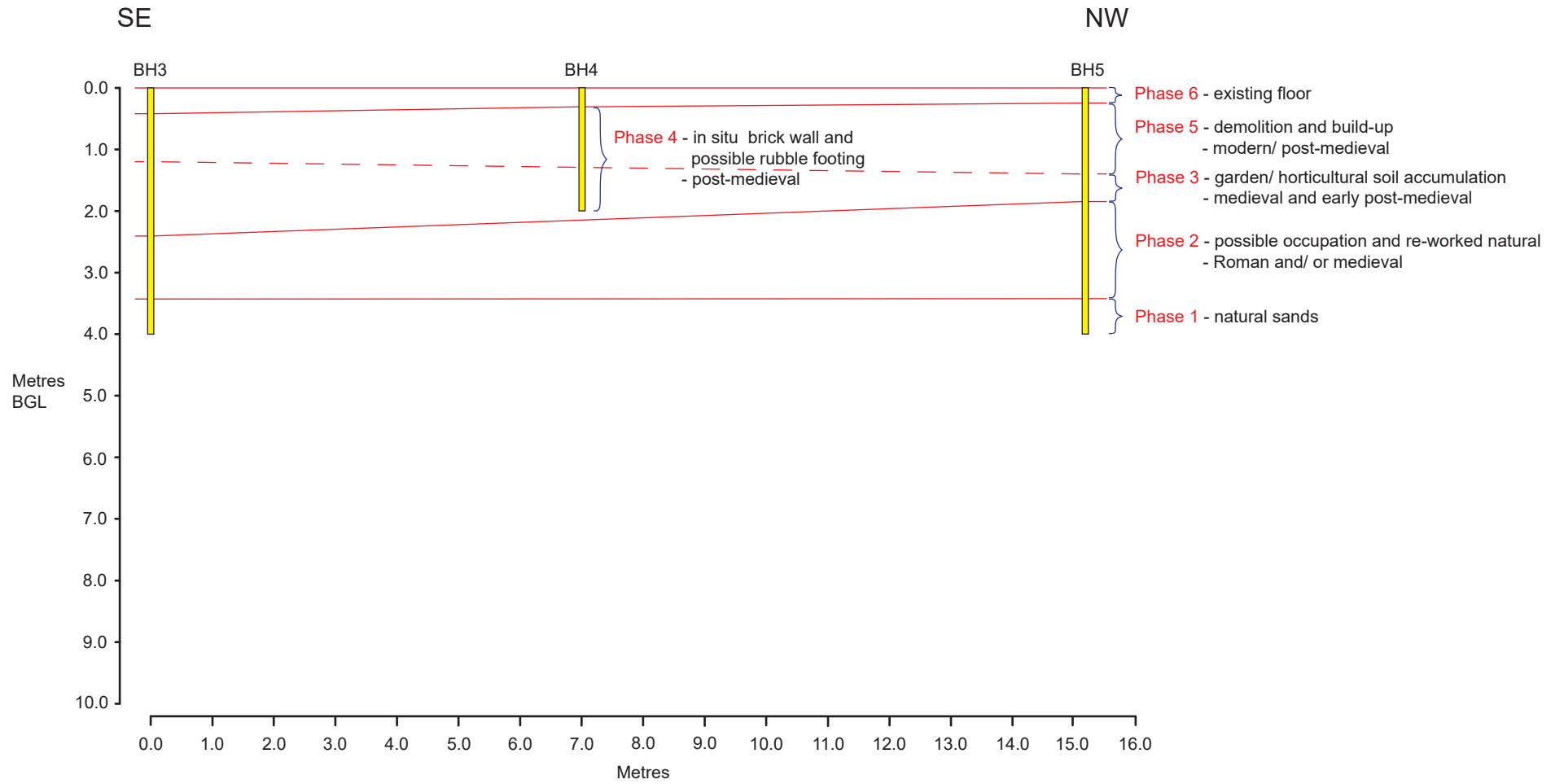


Fig. 7 Deposit model, transect B

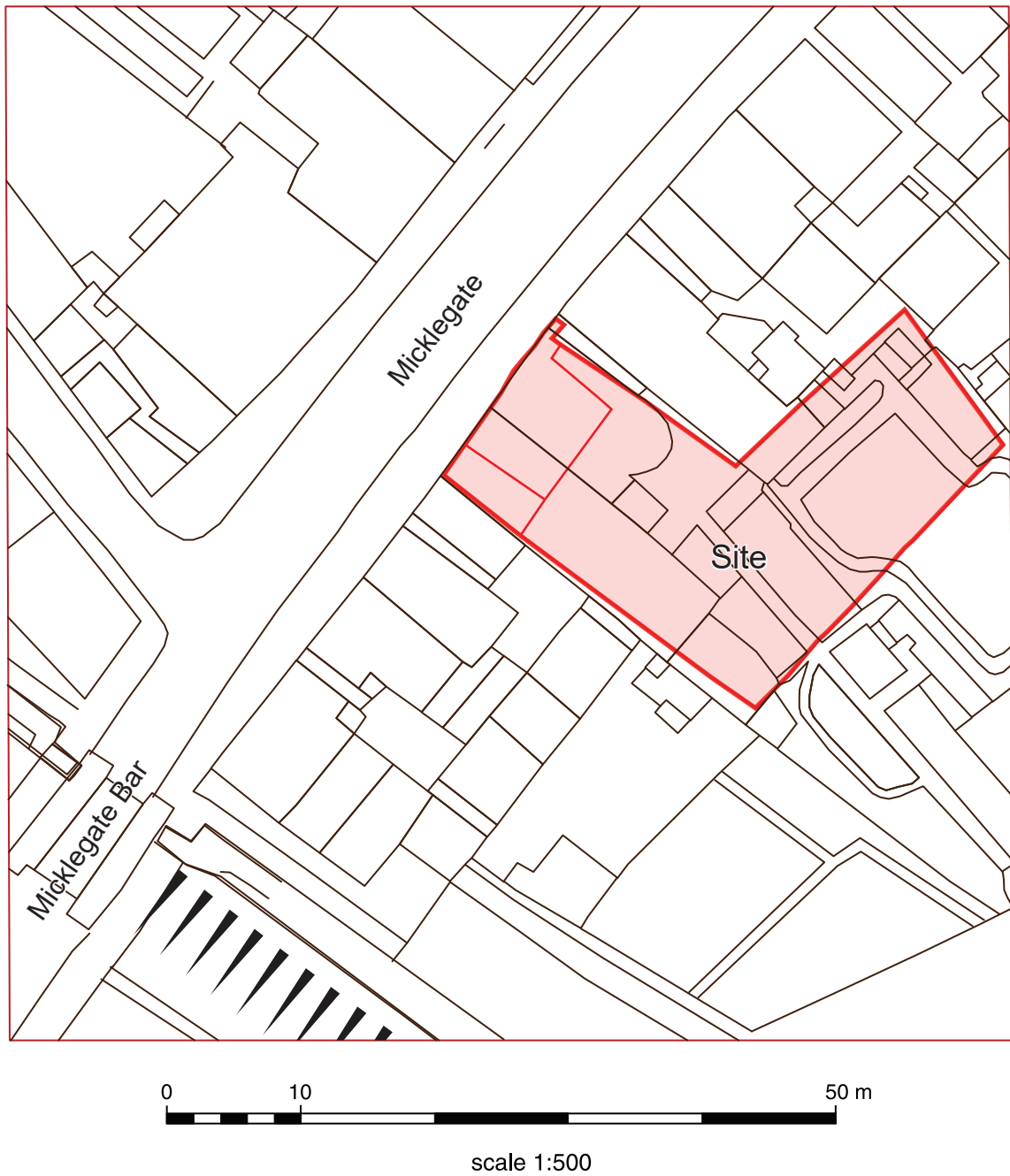
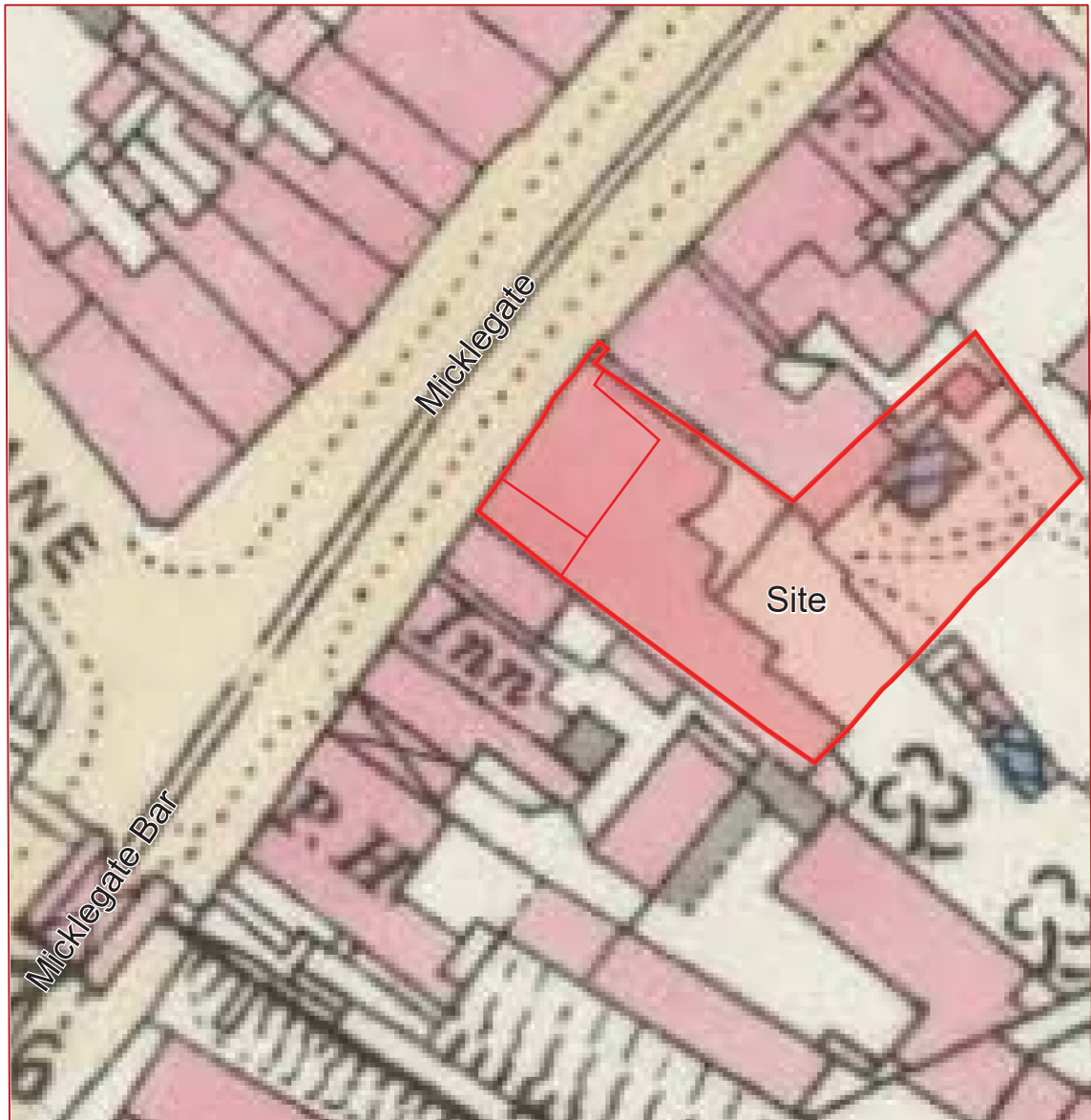
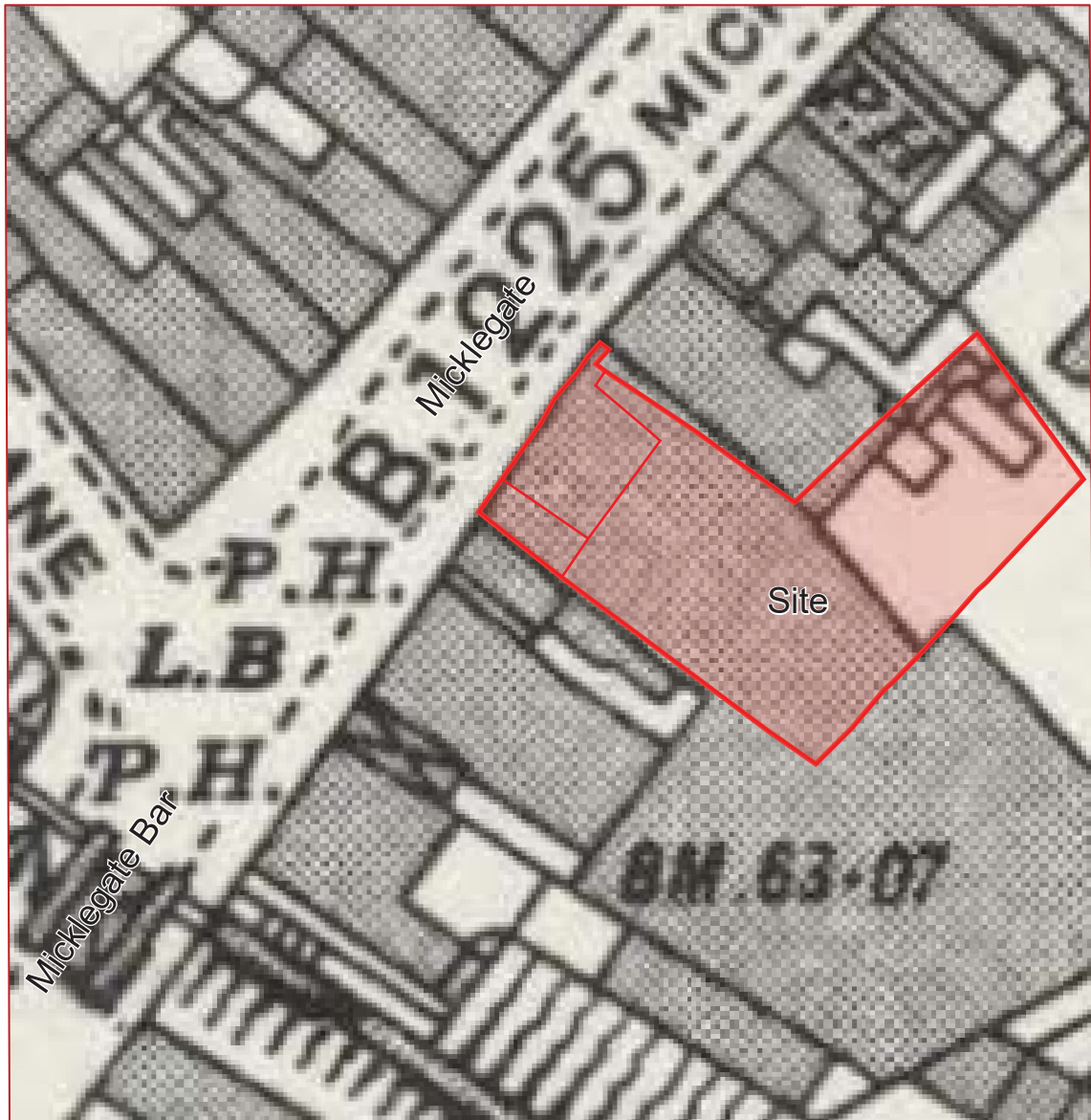


Fig. 8 Digitised 1852 OS map with 111 Micklegate overlaid



scale 1:500

Fig. 9 1889 OS map with 111 Micklegate overlaid



scale 1:500

Fig. 10 1937 OS map with 111 Micklegate overlaid



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York Archaeological Trust, Cuthbert Morrell House, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX

Phone: +44 (0)1904 663000 Fax: +44 (0)1904 663024

Email: archaeology@yorkat.co.uk Website: <http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk>

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